

LESS THAN 100 DAYS...ARE YOU READY?

The EPA's new Renovation, Repair & Painting (RRP) lead law goes into effect on April 22, 2010

KNOXVILLE, TN: You've got less than 100 days until federal law requires that anyone paid to repair paint in homes, child care facilities, and schools built before 1978 must be certified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the new Renovation, Remodeling & Painting (RRP) Rule. This new law is intended to protect children from leaded dust that may result from disturbing lead based paint.

The Tennessee Alliance for Lead-safe Kids (TALK) at Middle Tennessee State University wants to make sure that everyone in the community, especially contractors <<http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovation.htm#contractors>> , property owners <<http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovation.htm#owners>> , homeowners, realtors <<http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovation.htm#realtors>> and childcare providers <<http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovation.htm#owners>> know that as of April 22, 2010 anyone paid to perform renovation, repair and painting projects that disturb paint in homes, childcare facilities, and schools built before 1978 must be EPA RRP certified and follow lead-safe work practice standards to prevent lead contamination. Common renovation activities like sanding, cutting, and demolition can create hazardous lead dust and chips which can be harmful to children and adults. This new law has the potential to significantly decrease childhood lead poisoning throughout the state.

Lead poisoning causes a long list of problems including learning disabilities, kidney disease, high blood pressure, miscarriage, and birth defects. Exposure to lead can even cause depression and aggressive behavior. There is no safe level of lead in the body. While recent publicity has centered on toys and other consumer products containing lead, the problems caused by all of those products put together is a drop in the bucket compared to the number of people harmed when contractors disturb old paint in pre-1978 buildings without taking simple precautions.

By April 22, 2010 renovations in pre-1978 housing and child-occupied facilities must be conducted by RRP certified renovation firms, using renovators with EPA RRP accredited training, and following the work practice requirements of the rule. This new law will help protect children from being exposed to lead paint poisoning. Consumers should be informed about the new RRP rule and ask any contractor they hire if they are EPA RRP certified. Owners conducting repairs in their own homes are not covered by this law (unless they receive compensation, i.e. landlords).

Lead Remodelers and Renovators Certification & Refresher Course information can be found on the EPA's web site at www.epa.gov/lead or by contacting the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD (5323).

For additional information about the effects and prevention of childhood lead poisoning contact TALK at (865) 244-4350.